

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a 3' sequence of the GBV-B genome.
2. (canceled) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. (canceled) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.
4. (canceled) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is RNA.
5. (canceled) A viral expression construct comprising a polynucleotide encoding a 3' sequence of the GBV-B genome.
6. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
7. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has 100 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
8. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has 150 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
9. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
10. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 250 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
11. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

12. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 1000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
13. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 5000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
14. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.
15. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said construct is a plasmid.
16. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said construct is a virus.
17. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, further defined as a construct for the expression of GBV-B.
18. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 5, further defined as a construct for the expression of a chimeric GBV-B/HCV virus.
19. (previously presented) A method of producing a GBV-B derived virus comprising:
introducing into a host cell a recombinant viral genome comprising a 3' terminal sequence of GBV-B, wherein the 3' terminal sequence comprises 50 contiguous nucleotides from SEQ ID NO:1; and
culturing said host cell under conditions permitting production of a virus from said genome.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said 3' terminal sequence comprises 100 contiguous nucleotides from SEQ ID NO:1.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said 3' terminal sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

22. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 250 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
23. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
24. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 1000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
25. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 5000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
26. (canceled) The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.
27. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said host cell is a prokaryotic cell.
28. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said host cell is a eukaryotic cell.
29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said host cell is in an animal.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said genome comprises recombinant RNA.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said genome is encoded by recombinant DNA.
32. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of isolating virus from said host cell.
33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein said virus is purified to homogeneity.
34. (canceled) An oligonucleotide between about 10 and about 259 consecutive bases of SEQ ID NO:1.

35. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 15 bases in length.
36. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 20 bases in length.
37. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 25 bases in length.
38. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 30 bases in length.
39. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 35 bases in length.
40. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 50 bases in length.
41. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 100 bases in length.
42. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 150 bases in length.
43. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 200 bases in length.
44. (canceled) The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 259 bases in length.
45. (canceled) A method for identifying a compound active against a viral infection comprising:

providing a virus expressed from a viral construct comprising a 3' sequence of a GBV-B virus;

contacting said virus with a candidate substance; and

comparing the infectious ability of the virus in the presence of said candidate substance with the infectious ability of the virus in a similar system in the absence of said candidate substance.

46. (canceled) The method of claim 45, wherein the virus is a GBV-B virus.

47. (canceled) The method of claim 45, wherein the virus is a GBV-B/HCV chimera.

48. (canceled) A compound active against a viral infection identified according to a method comprising:

providing a virus expressed from a viral construct comprising a 3' sequence of a GBV-B virus;

contacting said virus with a candidate substance; and

comparing the infectious ability of the virus in the presence of said candidate substance with the infectious ability of the virus in a similar system in the absence of said candidate substance.

49. (canceled) The compound of claim 48, wherein the virus is a GBV-B virus.

50. (canceled) The compound of claim 48, wherein the virus is a GBV-B/HCV chimera.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said genome comprises at least 250 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said genome comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said genome comprises at least 1000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said genome comprises at least 5000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.
55. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said genome comprises SEQ ID NO:2.
56. (previously presented) A method of producing a GBV-B or chimeric GBV-B virus comprising:
- obtaining a virus produced by the method of claim 19;
 - introducing the virus into a second host cell; and
 - culturing said host cell under conditions permitting production of virus.